

March 31, 2004

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Certification of Air Quality Data on the Air Quality System (AQS)

FROM: Richard D. Scheffe, Leader /signed/  
Monitoring and Quality Assurance Group (C339-02)

TO: Regional Office Air Program Managers

The data certification letters and data files for CY-2002 air quality data were due to OAQPS on July 1, 2003. For the first time, software was implemented to certify data by reporting organization, rather than the previous certification of the whole State at one time. It was requested that the State/local agencies submit an electronic copy of the AMP450 "Quick-Look" report, which would identify the data (by site and pollutant) the agency wished to have certified. It was also requested (but not required) that the State/local agency submit an electronic file of the AMP240 "Summary of Precision and Accuracy Results."

A review was made of the AMP450 and AMP240 reports before any data were certified, and the results of the AMP240 review were distributed at the Regional meeting in Atlanta (9/10/03). This review has been updated and has been sent to the Regional monitoring staff. It must be pointed out that the Part 58 regulations only require a certification of those monitors designated as State and Local Air Monitoring Stations (SLAMS) and National Air Monitoring Stations (NAMS). The review of the AMP240 report showed many short-comings in the reporting of the required Part 58 Appendix A quality assurance information.

So the question became what to do about certifying data that had insufficient reported precision and accuracy data. At the OAQPS-Regional Office monitoring meeting in Atlanta, it was decided to go ahead and certify the 2002 data because of insufficient warning about the consequences of inadequate precision and accuracy data. However, the consensus was that the certification of the CY-2003 data (due July 1, 2004) would be dependent upon a thorough review of the required precision and accuracy data reported to AQS. In May, 2004, OAQPS will provide a completeness review of all QA information at the site and reporting organization level for the CY-2003 data. This will provide the Regions some time to review this information and

communicate with the monitoring organizations on sites or reporting organizations not meeting the 75 percent completeness criteria. As part of the certification process, we would like to have a rationale from those organizations whose completeness is below 50 percent for a significant number of their sites ( >40 percent).

Another issue identified while reviewing the CY-2002 data certification needs to be discussed. The data certified should be complete and have all updates done. For data reported with exceptional event flags, this means that the Regional review and concurrence process must be complete. Changes to AQS calculation procedures for exceptional events will be made in March 2004 and incomplete Regional concurrence will affect the proper calculation of summary statistics. The AMP450 report will be modified to optionally list all summary records for exceptional data. This option should be utilized to ensure all records that should be certified are included in the report.

Please inform the monitoring organizations in your Region that the precision and accuracy information is necessary for the assessment of data quality and is expected to be reported in the same time frame as the routine data. We will be requesting the submittal of the AMP450 "Quick-Look" and the AMP240 "Summary of Precision and Accuracy by Reporting Organization" for the certification of the CY-2003 criteria pollutant data. The AMP450 and AMP240 reports will need to be submitted to OAQPS by July 1, 2004. If you have any questions about these requirements, please call either David Lutz (919 541-5476) or Mike Papp (919-541-2408).

#### Attachment

cc: Regional Office NAMS Coordinators  
Regional Office AQS Contacts  
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